Dear caring Les, 9/4/84

The Lardner story, about fighting his desk:

On a weekend I got some scientific test results from the FBI which said exactly the opposite of what the FBI had represented. I've forgotten whether it was JFK or King - it is true in both cases. I phoned him, he wanted to do the story, and did it in his off time. When he had a problem with his desk he went in and fought with it on a Sunday and it was in the Monday paper.

I didn't know you were hoping to get to Europe and didn't think that the CIA stuff would be complicated to others. I thought it would make a natural followup which could have significance ~~XXXXXX~~ besause there impends amending of FOIA that will amount to total immunity for the CIA snd because more domestic evil from it is certain.

Jim Lesar told me a week or so ago that Mark Allen was working with one of Jack's associates on a story about the pending amending of FOIA. If Jim knew the name of the associate he did not tell me. Perhaps the CIA stuff that I sent you as a possible followup would interest him/her. Mark's home phone is 547-1636, if you would not mind phoning him some evening. (Unmarried, works.) He could then tell you which one might be interested in what I sent you. That, if necessaary, I can expand upon. I can also simplify it.

As you may have learned, those people don't tell the truth even by accident!

I have no perdonal ax to grind in any of this. And I'd rather spend that time on other things. But I believe FOIA is quintessential to resistance to creeping authoritarianism and the counterpart, that wiping it out or reducing its effectiveness is important to authoritarians.

If one takes a less severe position, FOIA is essential to making the system work and that is worth the effort.

If my people hadn't fled the tyranny under which they were born I probably would not have survived the 1940s. I'm the first member of my family born in this country. Others coming from placidity and freedom may not take such matters are seriously as I do.

Thanks for the call, the effort, and the piece of Jack goes with it.

Best wishes,

Hal